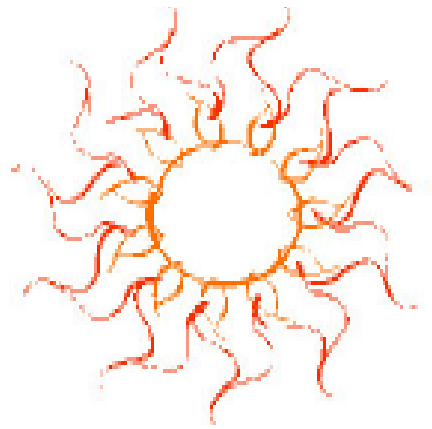


SUMMER HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION



energy saving tips

- Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator and check for frost buildup in refrigerators and freezers which causes an appliance to work harder.
- Don't constantly move the thermostat up or down throughout the day because this will waste energy and money.
- Use ceiling fans to assist in cooling. In the summer, blades should rotate counter-clockwise when viewed from below.
- Consider using a programmable thermostat to raise the temperature when the home is unoccupied.
- Close drapes, shades and blinds during the day to keep the sunlight from heating up your home.
- Make sure furniture and draperies are not blocking cooling outlets. Blocked outlets restrict air circulation, overwork the cooling equipment and increase operating costs.
- Close off rooms that are not used directly for cooling, so rooms most used by the household will remain cool.
- Shift the use of heat-producing and major appliances such as ovens, dishwashers, clothes dryers and irons from mid-day to early in the morning or later at night when possible.
- Turn off lights when they are not needed. Consider replacing burned out light bulbs with new energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs generate less heat so the energy is used more effectively to light an area. Consider using task lighting, which focuses light where you will need it, instead of brightly lighting an entire room.
- Make sure your air conditioner filter is clean. Clean or replace filters as needed. Clogged filters cause the unit to use more energy (replacing them takes just seconds and will save you money). Also consider letting a professional tune-up your air conditioner to maximize its efficiency.
- Turn off computers, monitors, printers and televisions during periods of non-use. These devices use energy even when in stand-by mode.
- Wash clothes in cold water with a cold water detergent. Wash full loads of laundry for maximum efficiency. If less than full, set the water level in the washing machine to suit the size of the load (you will save energy and water.)
- Dry laundry on a line to avoid using clothes dryers. You can put laundry in the dryer when it's almost dry; add a fabric softener sheet and it will take the stiffness out of the clothes. Clean the lint filter in the dryer after each use.



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- Use your microwave, toaster oven, slow cooker, broiler oven or other energy saving appliances for cooking food. They use half the energy of a regular oven and keep your kitchen cooler. Using your outdoor grill to cook dinner also avoids heating up the kitchen.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 115 degrees.
- Defrost food in your refrigerator, this helps cool the refrigerator, easing energy requirements, and it is better for the food than defrosting in room temperature. Keep refrigerator full so that it is cooling less open space (water jugs make good fillers).
- Cover pans when cooking on a stove top and use exhaust fans periodically, as required, to reduce indoor humidity.
- Avoid using extension cords with appliances because they cut the efficiency of the appliance.
- Plan ahead before taking food from the refrigerator - don't leave door open any longer than necessary.
- Try to wash full loads in the dishwasher, and use the short cycle. Except for very dirty dishes, short cycles work just as well as longer ones. If possible, let dishes air-dry. These measures not only cut the dishwasher's energy usage - they also cut down on the amount of heat being released into your kitchen.
- Keep storm windows and doors in place to reduce the air conditioning load.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows that leak air.
- Adding insulation and sealing air leaks will help keep the cool air inside.
- Don't overload an electric circuit with high-wattage appliances. The normal limit for an electric circuit of 15 amps is 1600 watts. Overloaded circuits can blow fuses or trip circuit breakers as well as make any appliances on the circuit operate inefficiently.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Savers Tips